

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing remarks, claims 24-41 are pending in the application, with claim 24 being the independent claim. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 33-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 24-26 and 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gunter *et al*, U.S. Patent No. 6,751,728 (Gunter). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Gunter teaches a system and method for “efficiently transmitting encrypted packets between a sending host on an external network and a receiving host on an intranet through a network access point (NAP).” (Gunter, col. 2, lines 35-40). In Gunter, when a sending host has data to transmit to a receiving host 66 on a private network, the sending host 62 inserts the Internet address of the NAP 70 associated with the receiving host 66 in the destination address field of the packet and appends the 1875.4310003.

intranet address of the receiving host 62 to the end of the encrypted portion of the data structure of the packet. (Gunter, col. 7, lines 20-64). When the NAP 70 receives the packet, it strips the field containing the intranet address of the receiving host 66 from the received packet and replaces the NAP address in the destination address field with the intranet address of the receiving host 66. (Gunter, col. 8, lines 3-6). The NAP 70 then forwards the modified packet to the receiving host 66 on its LAN. (Gunter, col. 8, lines 19-21). Thus, in Gunter, packet decryption by the NAP “is avoided altogether by including both the public network address of the NAP 70 and the private network address of the receiving host 68 [sic] in the non-encrypted portion of the encrypted packet.” (Gunter, col. 6, lines 17-20).

Gunter does not teach “a distributor unit that distributes a plurality of packets and security association information associated with the plurality of packets according to a distribution scheme; and a plurality of security processing engines, coupled to the distributor unit, that perform authentication and cryptographic functions, wherein the plurality of security processing engines receive at least a portion of the security association information associated with the packets, and wherein the plurality of security processing engines process the plurality of packets in parallel” as recited in independent claim 24. As described above, Gunter teaches a method and system for performing address translation on a packet to avoid packet decryption at an intermediate node in the network. In Gunter, the destination node for a packet is included in the packet itself. The NAP in Gunter simply inserts the receiving host address into the destination address field, avoiding security processing such as decryption or authentication. Gunter does not teach or suggest that the NAP 70 accesses security association information associated

with packets and distributes that security association information to security processing engines.

Based on the above, Applicants submit that Gunter does not teach or suggest every feature recited in Applicants' claim 24. Therefore, Applicants request favorable consideration of amended independent claims 24. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, claims 25, 26, and 36-41 which depend from claim 24, respectively, are patentable over Gunter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the ground of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Gunter and Barlow

In the Office Action, claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Gunter in view of Barlow, *et al*, U.S. Patent No. 6,038,551 (Barlow). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 27 depends from claim 24. Barlow does not overcome all of the deficiencies of Gunter relative to claim 24 described above. For at least these reasons, and further in view of its own features, claim 27 is patentable over Gunter in view of Barlow. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Gunter and Leung

In the Office Action, claims 28-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Gunter in view of Leung, *et al*, U.S. Patent No. 6,038,551 (Barlow). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 28-32 depend from claim 24. Leung does not overcome all of the deficiencies of Gunter relative to claim 24 described above. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, claims 28-32 are patentable over Gunter in view of Leung. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion


All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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